

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system including:

a system unit having a system unit power supply system performing a process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within the system unit;

an electrical connection;

a peripheral device connected to the system unit by the electrical connection, wherein the peripheral device includes a peripheral power supply system performing a process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within the peripheral device, and a main power switch electrically connected to the peripheral power supply system and to the system unit power supply system through the electrical connection to turn both of the power supply systems on and off.

2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein

said main power switch is connected to said peripheral power supply system by a first power switching line and to said system unit power supply system by a second power switching line extending through said electrical connection,

said peripheral power supply system additionally supplies a first switching voltage relative to a ground potential in said peripheral device,

said first switching voltage is connected to said first power switching line through a resistor,

said first switching voltage remains on when said process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within said peripheral device is turned off,

said main power switch includes a first contact connecting said first power switching line to a ground potential within said peripheral device when said main power switch is operated, and

said peripheral power supply system includes a power sequencer causing

16 said process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within said
17 peripheral device to be turned on in response to said first power switching line
18 being held at the ground potential in said peripheral device for a first time
19 duration and additionally causing said process of supplying at least one voltage
20 level to components within said peripheral device to be turned off in response to
21 said first power switching line being held at the ground potential in said peripheral
22 device for a second time duration, substantially longer than said first time
23 duration.

1 3. The computer system of claim 2, wherein

2 said main power switch additionally includes a second contact connecting
3 said second power switching line to said ground potential within said peripheral
4 device when said power switch is operated, and

5 said system unit power supply system additionally supplies a second
6 switching voltage relative to a ground potential in said system unit,

7 said second switching voltage is connected to said second power
8 switching line through a resistor,

9 said second switching voltage remains on when said process of supplying
10 at least one voltage level to components within said system unit is turned off,

11 said system unit power supply system includes a power sequencer
12 causing said process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within
13 said system unit to be turned on in response to said second power switching line
14 being held at the ground potential in said peripheral device for a first time
15 duration and additionally causing said process of supplying at least one voltage
16 level to components within said system unit to be turned off in response to said
17 second power switching line being held at the ground potential in said peripheral
18 device for a second time duration, substantially longer than said first time
19 duration.

1 4. The computer system of claim 3, wherein said system unit additionally
2 includes an auxiliary power switch connecting said second power switching line
3 to ground potential in said system unit when said auxiliary power switch is
4 operated

1 5. The computer system of claim 2, wherein
2 said second power switching line is additionally connected to said first
3 switching voltage through a resistor and is additionally switched to said ground
4 potential within said peripheral device when said auxiliary power switch is
5 operated, and

6 said system unit power supply system includes a power sequencer
7 causing said process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within
8 said system unit to be turned on in response to said second power switching line
9 being held at the ground potential in said peripheral device for a first time
10 duration and additionally causing said process of supplying at least one voltage
11 level to components within said system unit to be turned off in response to said
12 second power switching line being held at the ground potential in said peripheral
13 device for a second time duration, substantially longer than said first time
14 duration.

1 6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein
2 said system unit power supply system additionally supplies a second
3 switching voltage relative to a ground potential in said system unit

4 said second switching voltage is connected to a third power switching line
5 through a resistor,

6 said system unit additionally includes an auxiliary power switch connecting
7 said third power switching line to ground potential in said system unit when said
8 auxiliary power switch is operated, and

9 said third power switching line is additionally connected as an input to said
10 power sequencer in said system unit power supply system to cause said process

11 of supplying at least one voltage level to components within said system unit to
12 be turned on in response to said third power switching line being held at the
13 ground potential in said system unit for a first time duration and additionally
14 causing said process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within
15 said system unit to be turned off in response to said third power switching line
16 being held at said ground potential in said system unit for a second time duration,
17 substantially longer than said first time duration.

1 7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein
2 said peripheral device additionally includes a drive indicator light
3 electrically connected to a drive indicator signal line within said electrical
4 connection;
5 said system unit additionally includes a hard disk drive and a drive adapter
6 generating a signal applied to the drive indicator signal line to cause illumination
7 of the drive indicator light as data is read from and written to the hard disk drive.

1 8. The computer system of claim 7, wherein
2 said peripheral device additionally comprises a window having an
3 appearance similar to surrounding external surfaces of said peripheral device
4 when said first indicator light is off, and
5 said first indicator light illuminates said window through a mask providing
6 an illuminated pattern when said first indicator light is on.

1 9. The computer system of claim 1, wherein
2 said peripheral device additionally comprises a display screen, and
3 said electrical connection additionally includes at least one video data line
4 for transmitting a video signal for generating an image on said display screen.

1 10. The peripheral device of claim 9, wherein
2 said system unit runs in an operational state and in a suspended state,
3 and
4 said peripheral device additionally includes a second indicator light, a
5 circuit determining from a video signal transmitted said through said connector
6 whether a system unit electrically attached to said peripheral unit is running in
7 an operational state or in a suspended state, and a circuit driving the second
8 indicator light to provide a first visible indication when said system unit is running
9 in the operational state and a second visible indication when said system unit is
10 running in the suspended state.

1 11. A peripheral device for use with a system unit in a computer system,
2 wherein the peripheral device comprises:
3 a connector including at least one contact terminal for electrically
4 connecting the peripheral device to the system unit;
5 a power supply system performing a process of supplying at least one
6 voltage level to components within the peripheral device; and
7 a power switch electrically connected to the power supply system by a first
8 power switching line to turn the process of supplying at least one voltage level to
9 components within the peripheral device on and off and to a first contact terminal
10 within the connector by a second power switching line.

1 12. The peripheral device of claim 11, wherein
2 said power supply system additionally supplies a switching voltage relative
3 to a ground potential in said peripheral device,
4 said switching voltage is connected to said first power switching line
5 through a resistor,
6 said switching voltage remains on when said process of supplying at least
7 one voltage level to components within said peripheral device is turned off,
8 said power switch includes a first contact connecting said first power

9 switching line to a ground potential when said power switch is operated, and
10 said power supply system includes a power sequencer causing said
11 process of supplying at least one voltage level to components within said
12 peripheral device to be turned on in response to said first power switching line
13 being held at the ground potential in said peripheral device for a first time
14 duration and additionally causing said process of supplying at least one voltage
15 level to components within said peripheral device to be turned off in response to
16 said first power switching line being held at the ground potential in said peripheral
17 device for a second time duration, substantially longer than said first time
18 duration.

1 13. The peripheral device of claim 12, wherein

2 said power switch additionally includes a second contact connecting said
3 second power switching line to said ground potential within said peripheral device
4 when said power switch is operated, and

5 said second power switching line is electrically floating within said
6 peripheral device when said power switch is not operated.

1 14. The peripheral device of claim 12, wherein said second power switching
2 line is additionally connected to said switching voltage through a resistor and is
3 additionally switched to said ground potential within said peripheral device when
4 said power switch is operated.

1 15. The peripheral device of claim 11, additionally comprising a first indicator
2 light electrically connected to a second contact terminal within said connector.

1 16. The peripheral device of claim 15, wherein
2 said peripheral device additionally comprises a window having an
3 appearance similar to surrounding external surfaces of said peripheral device
4 when said first indicator light is off, and

5 said first indicator light illuminates said window through a mask providing
6 an illuminated pattern when said first indicator light is on.

1 17. The peripheral device of claim 11, wherein
2 said peripheral device additionally comprises a display screen, and
3 said connector additionally includes at least one contact terminal for
4 transmitting a video signal for generating an image on said display screen.

1 18. The peripheral device of claim 17, wherein said peripheral device
2 additionally includes:

3 a second indicator light;

4 a circuit determining from a video signal transmitted through said
5 connector whether a system unit electrically attached to said peripheral unit is
6 running in an operational state or in a suspended state; and

7 a circuit driving the second indicator light to provide a first visible indication
8 when said system unit is running in the operational state and a second visible
9 indication when said system unit is running in the suspended state.